

Disaster Planning for Special Needs

In a disaster, people with special medical needs have extra concerns. Take the following steps if you or your family members have special medical needs:

- Have an extra three day supply of any medical supplies you use, such as bandages, ostomy bags or syringes.
- For all medical equipment requiring electrical power such as beds, breathing equipment, or infusion pumps - check with your medical supply company and get information regarding a back-up power source such as a battery or generator.
- If you use oxygen, have an emergency supply (enough for at least a three day period).
- Oxygen tanks should be securely braced so they do not fall over. Call your medical supply company regarding bracing instructions.
- Prepare copies of vital medical papers such as insurance cards and power of attorney.
- Store extra batteries for hearing aids, implants, TTY and light phone signaler.
- If hearing impaired, determine how you will communicate with emergency personnel if there is no interpreter or if you don't have your hearing aids. Store paper and pens for this purpose.
- Service animals may become confused, frightened or disoriented during and after a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. A leash/harness is an important item for managing a nervous or upset animal.

MEDICAL CENTER

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

R Preparing Your Medication

- ✓ Always have at least a **three day supply** of all your medications. In some emergencies, such as an influenza pandemic, you may need to prepare for a week or more.
- ✓ Store your medications in **one location** in their original containers.
- ✓ Have a **list of all** of your medications: name of medication, dose, frequency, and the name of the prescribing doctor.



Disaster Planning for Your Pet

The first rule to remember is, if you evacuate, take your pets. If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them. Proper planning before a hurricane could save your life and that of your pet. If you live in an area which is evacuated, you must make preparations for your family and your pets before the threat of a storm or disaster (see page 42 for information on Santa Rosa County's Pet Friendly Shelter). Pets should not be left in an empty house or to roam free. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents.

If you board your pet at a kennel facility, reclaim your pet as quickly as possible because chances are, the facilities will be overcrowded and understaffed.

The first couple of days following the disaster, be sure to put a leash on your pets when they go outside until they become familiar with their home again. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency; normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely when outdoors because snakes and other dangerous animals may move into the area. It's also important to keep a close eye on pets outside due to possible hazards of downed power lines. Be alert for rotted substances which your pet may find when released into your yard.

DON'T FORGET THE KIT!

Whether you evacuate, stay home or utilize a pet friendly shelter, your furry family member needs a disaster kit.

- ☐ Carrier or cage big enough for the pet to stand, stretch, and turn around, and room for food and water
- ☐ Collar and leash
- ☐ Any necessary medication(s)
- ☐ Proof of vaccinations
- ☐ A five day supply of food and water
- ☐ Any special dietary requirements
- ☐ Bowls for food and water
- ☐ Cat litter pan, litter and litter scooper
- ☐ Plastic bags

